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O.S. Your mother was much gratified
in receiving your letter. Our loving regards to
dear Lucy, mother and father. Remember us

Rockledge, March 27, 1867.

My dear Wendell:

I have not yet engaged my passage
to Europe, having been uncertain what to decide
upon since I saw you, partly on account of your
mother, but specially because Mr. Thompson has
not seen his way clear to go over with me on ac-
count of his limited means, though yearning to
do so. As for your mother, every thing now looks
well in her case; for, though the ulcer in her
paralyzed leg at one time had a very alarm-
ing aspect, the general appearance is much ^{im-}proved. But there is much uncertainty whether,
after all, Julia Randall will be able to re-
main with your mother during my absence abroad;
for her father is now seriously unwell, with dis-
ease of the heart and dropsical swellings. Pos-
sibly he may be called hence before we shall
need Julia; or his may be a lingering case,
needing her constant presence and care.

Aside from Julia, I know of no one to be obtained who would be to your mother's taste; for she is somewhat particular as to persons. Yet she does not wish me to delay a day in securing my passage, and will be considerably disappointed if I do not go. I therefore give you carte blanche to engage a berth for me on board of the Great Eastern, for May 15th — the best you can get at \$125; or, if a better one, on the whole, as to position, can be obtained for \$100, then choose me one in that "lowest deep" — \$140 being "too steep" a price in my case. Perhaps Mr. McKim will go with you to decide which will be preferable. Yet the refusal of it for twenty-four hours, notify me what you have done and what the advance pay amounts to, and I will immediately send you a check to pay for the same. I must take the risk of forfeit, any how; and, on the whole, prefer to go over in the Great Eastern. I am sorry not to be sure of an agreeable companion in my state-room, but must run for luck. I feel like paying for Mr. Thompson's passage

across, rather than to have him remain behind, he would be of so much service to me in England in various ways, especially in giving the Freedmen's cause a good lift. I am greatly indebted to him in regard to my reputation abroad, and for many disinterested services rendered by him to me and mine. Don't you think I had better offer to pay his passage? But that alone would not secure him; for he is so situated pecuniarily, and as to the future, that he feels he will have to return to this country in the fall, and enter into the lecturing field for a livelihood. So, he will be deterred from going, unless he can be sure of a free passage back. It will be as much as he can possibly do to meet his ^{family} expenses over there for the time he remains at home. I feel most keenly as to his situation, and am at a loss to know what to do in his behalf. I am cut off from asking donations, because I should have to ask the very persons who have been solicited to subscribe to my Testimonial; and what with the appeals for the Cretons and the

starving Southerners, and for ever recurring
cases needing assistance, it is hard to raise
money for a single individual, however
meritorious. Yet I doubt not there are liberal-
hearted gentlemen ^{who} would cheerfully con-
tribute something in aid of Mr. Thompson, if
properly approached; but I am not the per-
son to make the appeal. He is entitled, as
the most eloquent and successful advocate of
negro emancipation living, to a conspicuous
seat in the World's Anti-Slavery Congress
in Paris; and it will be a burning shame if,
in some way or other, he is not helped to
get to it. Thirty seven years of service con-
stitute his claims. Advise me what to do.
I should feel like paying his passage both
ways out of the Testimonial fund, rather than
to have him remain behind, (and I should be
obliged to draw upon that,) were it not that
I do not think the Trustees would feel like
sanctioning such an expenditure of money con-
tributed for a specific purpose. — But, se-
cure me as comfortable a berth as you can.

Of course, you have seen William and
this, and he has told you about Ellie and the babe.
Your affectionate Father.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 7, p. 31B